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The editor deserves much praise for having avoided the tendency of modern textbooks to become mere digests. To be sure, little of the author's own reasoning has been added, but on the other hand the reader is not given a multitude of specific cases which have little, if any, bearing on the general principles involved.

While this edition must be of great assistance to the English bar the literary form is open to severe criticism. Many English citations as well as all American citations have been omitted, often leaving a proposition unsupported by the evidence which the author evidently considered necessary. More serious, however, is the fact that there is nothing in the book to indicate deletions, insertions, or other changes from the last edition which Mr. Storey worked on, namely the fourth American edition. It would seem that this would seriously impair the value of any citations from the book since it is only by comparison with an earlier edition, very likely difficult to obtain in England, that a lawyer or a judge could tell what statements were those of the author and what statements are to be ascribed to the editor. If Mr. Randall had written a book under his own name and had acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr. Storey's book this criticism would not apply. But it is submitted that if a writer uses the name of a great jurist he should be very careful that the reader may know the sponsor for any given statement without referring to an earlier volume. Of course no one would expect the editor of a 1920 edition to subscribe to every statement made by the author, but it is submitted that a member of the bar who, by undertaking a new edition of Mr. Storey's work, admits some measure of gratitude and admiration for the author, should express his dissent in terms more respectful than those of section 1212.

CAMPBELL BOSSON.

**HANDBOOK OF ADMIRALTY LAW.** By Robert M. Hughes. Second Edition. St. Paul: West Publishing Company. 1920. pp. xviii, 572.

The law of Admiralty is a subject so foreign to many of our common-law conceptions, and yet involves cases often of such large importance that the noteworthy lack of adequate American treatises on the subject seems particularly unfortunate. Those interested in admiralty law must therefore note with especial satisfaction the appearance of a second edition of what is generally acknowledged as the best American textbook covering the general field of admiralty law.

The second edition maintains the same paragraphing as the first, and follows closely the original text, such additions being inserted as have been necessitated by the developments of the law since the first edition appeared. Several such changes have caused considerable alteration of the former text, particularly in regard to the law concerning the creation of maritime liens through the furnishing of supplies and repairs to domestic vessels (§§ 45-52), rights of action on the part of the crew against the vessel owner (§ 101), and the right of action arising from death injuries upon the sea (§ 114). The new text incorporates the provisions of the important Act of June 23, 1910 (pp. 99-101) which sweeps away much of the law under the *General Smith* decision,<sup>1</sup> the Salvage Act of 1912 (pp. 137, 425), pertinent provisions of the Seamen's Act of 1915 (p. 207), and the important death statute of March 30, 1920 (p. 240). Reference is also made to the Workmen's Compensation Act of October 6, 1917 (p. 209), since declared unconstitutional, and to the English Maritime Conventions Act of 1911 (p. 318). Unfortunately the book went to press too early to include the recent Merchant Marine Act of June 5, 1920, which in several particulars substantially alters the law of admiralty.

<sup>1</sup> 4 Wheat. (U. S.) 438, 4 L. Ed. 609 (1819). This Act of 1910 has since been supplanted by the Act of June 5, 1920, section 30, subjects. P-T, X.

Many new cases are added, decided since the appearance of the first edition, some of them of large importance as enunciating hitherto unsuspected doctrines of admiralty law, such as *Southern Pacific Co. v. Jensen*,<sup>2</sup> *Chelentis v. Luckenbach S. S. Co.*,<sup>3</sup> *Union Fish Co. v. Erickson*,<sup>4</sup> and (briefly mentioned in a footnote, p. 209) the recent important case of *Knickerbocker Ice Co. v. Stewart*.<sup>5</sup>

The Appendix contains in addition to what appeared in the first edition, the text of the Salvage Act of 1912, the Stand-By Act of 1890, the Handwriting Act of 1913, and the Act of March 9, 1920, authorizing certain admiralty suits against the United States.

F. B. S.

AN ELEMENTARY COMMENTARY ON ENGLISH LAW. (Designed for use in schools.) By His Honour Judge Ruegg, K. C., (County Court Judge of North Staffordshire and Joint-Judge of Birmingham). London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1920. pp. 194.

It is a happy event when the broad principles of an intricate and highly specialized subject are set down in plain language and straightforward style by one who, through attaining eminence in his profession, is competent to perform this task. In the sphere of law it may well be considered a public service to place a simple outline of its rules in the hands of the general reader or of children in schools, for whom primarily this book was written. The experiment of teaching law to children is one that is largely untried, but there is no reason why it should fail. It is not claimed that children could be made into lawyers, but neither is it to-day suggested that by studying physics or hygiene does a child become an engineer or competent to practice medicine. A knowledge of the legal system of one's country is necessary to every well-informed person.

The book will be found of service in giving a general idea of what law is, and might well be perused by those proposing to begin legal study; they may be helped in deciding whether they have aptitude which justifies their proceeding. The book deals at first with the nature of English Law and the Courts, their personnel and practice; the other contents include most of the larger divisions of law — Real and Personal Property, Wills and Intestacy, Contracts, Negotiable Instruments, Marriage and the Law of Persons, the Law of Master and Servant, Torts, Crime, and elementary Procedure and Evidence.

The first part of the book describing the component parts of English Law and the Courts is admirably clear and concise. The same is true of the chapters on real property, though the author's misgivings as to whether the topics discussed — such as Lease and Release before and after the Statute of Uses — may not be above the understanding of the normal school child, must be shared. Chapter VII dealing with former and present methods of land conveyance could be abbreviated into a simple statement that, since 1845, freehold land is conveyed by deed. More space might instead have been given to the treatment of contracts. Of the branches of law that are scarcely mentioned, Trusts and Bankruptcy would seem to merit brief treatment. A simple explanation of the way in which legal proceedings are begun would have been a valuable addition to the book. The place of case law in a modern system is not made clear; as it is, the impression is given that the law is a series of definite all-embracing rules.

The book is of necessity full of misleading generalizations. However, for the purpose for which it was written it is sufficiently accurate and has the merits of brevity and lucidity; as a new venture it deserves only commendation.

<sup>2</sup> 244 U. S. 205; 37 Sup. Ct. 524; 61 L. Ed. 1086; L. R. A. 1918 C, 451.

<sup>3</sup> 247 U. S. 572; 38 Sup. Ct. 501; 62 L. Ed. 1171.

<sup>4</sup> 248 U. S. 308; 39 Sup. Ct. 112; 63 L. Ed. 261.

<sup>5</sup> 252 U. S. —; 40 Sup. Ct. 438; 64 L. Ed. —.